



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

July 1, 2003

The Honorable Eldon Note
Mayor
Kili/Bikini/Ejit Local Government Council
P.O. Box 1096
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Mayor Note:

We enjoyed the productive annual meeting in San Francisco, California, and look forward in the coming year to working with your community to address concerns of the Bikini people.

Specifically, you asked about the current health status of some 390 Bikinians whom the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) monitored medically during the time period 1978-1985, at the request of the Department of the Interior. Although we cannot include these individuals in the DOE Special Medical Care Program or otherwise assess their health status, we agreed to try to determine whether sufficient information exists to identify the individuals in question and whether relevant medical records are available for a scientifically valid health study. Mr. William Jackson will be your DOE point of contact for this effort. We will report our findings at the next regular meeting of the Working Group.

You also mentioned that you would like to identify the local cleanup workers who were employed via subcontracts issued by the Atomic Energy Commission, and later, the Energy Research and Development Administration. We understand from personal contacts that these people worked for Holmes and Narver, Inc.(H&N). Mr. Earl Gilmore may be able to assist you in accessing the H&N records.

You asked about compensation for your people who worked on Trust Territory-funded cleanup and home construction at Bikini for employers such as ACME Construction Company. Some records would have been archived in DOE facilities in Colorado and at DOE's Coordination and Information Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. Others may be found in Trust Territory records, such as those we have heard are located on microfiche at the Alele Museum in Majuro. The compensation program requires that claimants identify themselves to the Department of Labor rather than having DOE use its resources to identify potential claimants. Hence, your local research staff should take the lead here, although Mr. Jackson will be happy to discuss this with your office when in Majuro in July.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven V. Cary".

Steven V. Cary
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Health Studies



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